

STATE OF CALIFORNIA
STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD

In the Matter of the Petition of)
Harvey T. Brandt, County Engineer)
for Los Angeles County for Recon-) Order No. WQ 73-16
sideration of Order No. 72-26 of the)
State Water Resources Control Board.)

BY THE BOARD

On March 19, 1973, Harvey T. Brandt, County Engineer for Los Angeles County (Petitioner), petitioned the State Water Resources Control Board (State Board) for reconsideration of State Board Order No. 72-26 requiring the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Los Angeles Region (regional board) to amend regional board Order No. 72-18 setting waste discharge requirements for the Corral Canyon Sewage Treatment Plant. Order No. 72-26 required the regional board to include in its amended waste discharge requirements the requirement that the discharger provide facilities capable of retaining 100 percent of the waste flow for 30 days without discharge to the creek or beach. This 30-day holding capacity is in addition to the presently planned ten-day holding capacity which is part of the proposed treatment system.

The petition requests the State Board to reconsider the provision in Order No. 72-26 which requires that the discharger specifically construct a 40-day raw sewage storage reservoir on the basis that such a requirement is infeasible and that alternative means of assuring complete safeguarding of the effluent quality exist. Petitioner contends that the 40-day storage requirement would result in adverse environmental effects, create serious nuisance

problems, raise serious geological problems, and, because of the increased costs involved, would result in abandonment of the project, thereby further delaying the implementation of an urgently needed regional sewerage system for Malibu. Petitioner recommends that in lieu of the 40-day storage requirement, the State Board modify Order No. 72-26 to approve physical-chemical standby treatment facilities as described in the County Sanitation District's letter to the State Board dated February 26, 1973.

The State Board has considered the petition and, for the reasons hereafter stated, believes that the physical-chemical standby treatment facilities will reliably provide the effluent quality necessary for the protection of public health and the prevention of nuisance and, therefore, is a reasonable alternative to the 40-day storage requirement.

Description of the Proposed Standby Treatment Facility.

As currently designed, the Corral Canyon Plant has tertiary treatment capability. The process consists of primary sedimentation, aeration (activated sludge), secondary sedimentation, provisions for chemical treatment, two-stage carbon filtration and chlorination. The present design provides for backup of all critical operations and processes except aeration. However, the aeration tanks have been designed with approximately 30 percent excess capability. Review of the District's present design for the tertiary plant shows it to be conservatively engineered, using latest control technology, and providing the necessary reliability.

Under the plan proposed in a letter to the State Board dated February 26, 1973, by Mr. Walter E. Garrison, Assistant Chief

Engineer for the County Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County, the District will provide the backup equipment, alarm systems, special monitoring and a 1.4 million gallon storage reservoir. In lieu of the 30-day storage facility, a separate standby physical-chemical treatment (PCT) system would be provided to serve as a backup for the activated sludge process. PCT has been tested for 13 months in a pilot plant at the District's Pomona Water Renovation Plant. We believe that PCT is well suited as a standby process since it can be brought on line almost instantly in an emergency as a complete replacement for the biological treatment normally used. In addition, the Bureau of Sanitary Engineering in a letter dated April 26, 1973, from Henry J. Ongerth to the State Board concurred with the conclusion that additional treatment and short-term holding capability should provide equivalent health protection to long-term storage and is, therefore, a reasonable alternative to the 40-day storage requirement.

Regional Board Order No. 72-18 Should be Revised.

Order No. 72-26 directed the regional board to revise its Order No. 72-18 consistent with the conclusions of that order. In view of our reconsideration of Order No. 72-26, Order No. 72-18 should be amended to substitute the physical-chemical treatment system as set forth in the Sanitation District's letter of February 26, 1973, and its attachments, for the 40-day storage requirement originally adopted in Order No. 72-26.

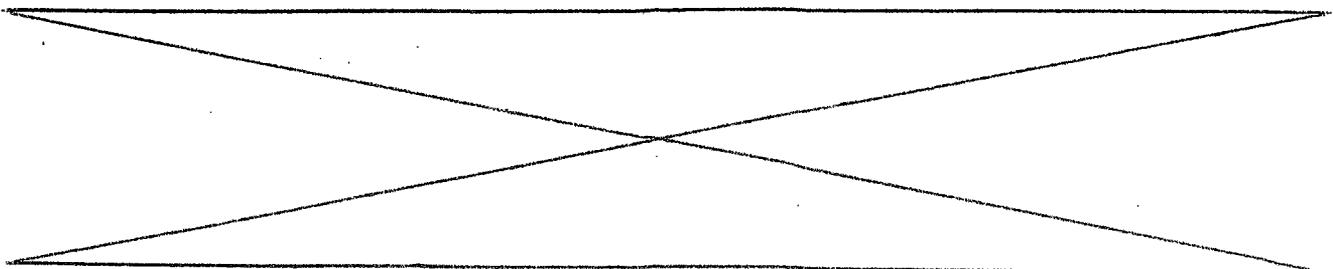
Conclusions

The State Board concludes as follows: The regional board should revise Order No. 72-18 to require the discharger to provide:

1. Standby treatment facilities consisting of a physical-chemical treatment capability fully consistent with concepts set forth in the Sanitation District's letter of February 26, 1973, and its attachments, so that in the event of plant upset or outage due to power failure or other cause, the discharge of raw or inadequately treated sewage does not occur.
2. Alarm system to detect and immediately notify responsible plant personnel of malfunction or failure of critical equipment, including chlorination equipment, at all times, including any periods when treatment facilities are unattended.
3. Continuous monitoring of chlorine residual in the waste discharge.
4. Back-up chlorination facilities.
5. Daily monitoring of coliform levels during peak load on the treatment system.
6. A 1.4 million gallon storage reservoir.

Order No. 72-18 must be amended to include numerical limits on the following parameters consistent with the Water Quality Control Plan for Ocean Waters of California; arsenic, copper, mercury, nickel, total chromium, zinc, total identifiable chlorinated hydrocarbons, and phenolic compounds.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that the provisions of this order shall prevail over provisions of State Board Order No. 72-26 to the

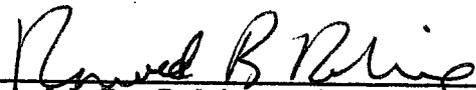


extent of any inconsistency, and that the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Los Angeles Region, revise Order No. 72-18 consistent with the conclusions of this order.

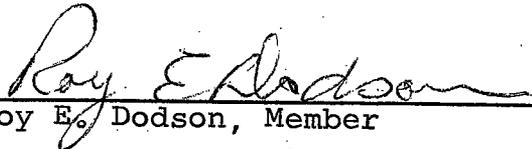
Dated: June 7, 1973



W. W. Adams, Chairman



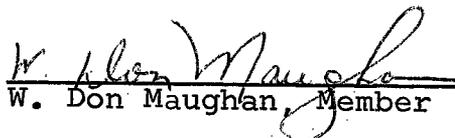
Ronald B. Robie, Vice Chairman



Roy E. Dodson, Member



Mrs. Carl H. (Jean) Auer, Member



W. Don Maughan, Member